" Well, dear, *I* think so! "

During the run of " Faust" Henry visited Oxford and gave his address on " Four Actors " (Burbage, Betterton, Gairick, Kean). He met there one of the many people who had recently been attacking him on the ground of too long runs and too much spectacle. He wrote me an amusing account of the duel between them :

" I had supper last night at New College after the affair. A----was there, and I had it out with him—to the delight of all.

" * *Too much decoration,*[9] etc., etc.

" I asked him what there was in ' Faust' in the matter of appointments, etc., that he would like left out ?

'* Answer: Nothing.

" * Too long runs.[1]

" 'You, sir, are a poet,[1] I said. [f]Perhaps it may be my privilege some day to produce a play of yours. Would you like it to have a long run or a short one ?' (Roars of laughter.)

'* Answer : * Well—er—well, of course, Mr. Irving, you—well—-well, a short run, of course for *art,* but ----------*

** * Now, sir, you're on oath,' said I. * Suppose that the fees were rolling in *£10* and more a night—would you rather the play were a failure or a success ? *

"*Well, well, as *you-* put it—I must say—er—I would rather my play had a *long* run ! '

" A----floored I

** He has all Ms life been writing articles running down good work and crying up the impossible, and I was glad to show him up a bit I

** The Vice-chancellor made a most lovely speech after the address—an eloquent and splendid tribute to the stage.

" Bourchaer presented the address of the ' Undergrads.' I aever saw a young man in a greater funk—because, I suppose, he had imitated me so often 1

" From t!he address :

" * We Lave watched with fceen and enthusiastic interest tihe fine intellectual quality of all these

representations from